



# QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

Jan - May 1994

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## A COMMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Several issues ago, our QCWA Journal carried a President's Message which addressed the subject of Chapter membership. It stated that Chapter members must be members of the Quarter Century Wireless Association in good standing.

That statement seemed simple enough at the time, but it would seem that the message did not reach the correct audience ... some Chapter officers. We are still receiving reports from Chapters which list among the membership names of those whose QCWA (National) memberships have expired; members who never were QCWA (National) members and even the names of folks who are not currently eligible for membership and may never be eligible because of natural time constraints.

At the time of the original article, it was noted that we cannot accept as Chapter members those who are not current "National" members. It was also stated that we appreciate the problems of those who have entered Amateur Radio late in life and will never accumulate the years necessary for membership in QCWA.

Additionally, it was mentioned that we welcome the latter category to our meetings as guests. We also welcome those who are awaiting their 25th year of Amateur Radio experience... once again... as guests. However, some Chapters have elected non-members to office in the Chapter and have accepted many non-members as Chapter members. It is not our intent to play "hard to get," but rules are rules and, very simply, "Quarter Century" is "Quarter Century." Please allow non-members to join in your activities as "guests." Our doors are not closed to our Amateur Radio friends. Many thanks for the cooperation of Chapter officers. 73...

Harry, W2HD, President

On behalf of Headquarters I want to thank Harry for being with us as President of QCWA. He was always there with advice and discussion whenever we asked for it.

Jim Walsh, W7LVN  
General Manager

## BALLOTS AND ELECTION

The ballots have gone out to everyone who was a member as of May 1, 1994. This was non-profit bulk mail and it is sometimes slow but they are gradually reaching everyone.

Please encourage everyone in your circle of members to mark their ballot and return it promptly, before they forget. This year, for the first time, we are electing a full slate of Officers and Directors.

The new Board will take office the first of September and be in attendance at the Annual convention meeting in El Paso the last of September. Have you made your plans yet?

## 1994 CONVENTION

Plans are well underway for a great convention in El Paso on September 30th and October 1, 1994. Forthcoming issues of the QCWA Journal will have all the details.

They promise great weather for the convention and some good entertainment and great eating experiences.

The Board will meet for one full day before the opening of the convention and then spend most of their time with the members in attendance. Watch the QCWA Journal for full details.

## QCWA JOURNAL ON TAPE

The tape program is going very well, with about 90 people now receiving the Journal on tape. We still need to get the word out to our sight-impaired members and put their names on the list. There is no charge for this great and wonderful service.

At Dayton this month I met one of our members, who is sight-impaired, and even though his son has been reading the QCWA Journal to him, they had overlooked the notice about the tapes. He is now on the list.

Send their names to Headquarters and we will take it from there. Or, if you wish, send word to Blanche Randles, W4GXZ.





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## UP-DATE ON CHAPTER FINANCES

In a previous issue I called your attention to the need to have at least two signatures on a Chapter bank account and related an experience with one of our Chapters.

The Chapter involved has new officers and the bank was very cooperative and a considerable amount of funds has been reinstated to the Chapter account. The account now bears several signatures.

## SAM DATA BASE

Funny thing happened the other day. I have been using the SAM data base so that we can connect calls with names while at work in the office. All of our filing in the data base is with Calls, not names. So along comes the note that the 1994 SAM data base is ready, I send in my money and it arrives.

I cannot wait to install it, and so I delete the older file and start to Install SAM in my machine. There are about 17 or 18 disks and it takes a little bit of time to install. At the end of the first disk I heard a familiar CW Tone and missed what it said.

On the second disk I paid attention and at the end of that disk loading, the darn computer sounded out "C Q" in cw and then a message came up on the screen telling me to insert the next disk. Would you believe... the same "C Q" was at the end of each disk in the set.

Now, there is a software supplier for you. I have been using SAM for several years and it is a great program, update every six months and not at all expensive for the average amateur to have in his computer. For the Chapter Secretaries out there....buy SAM, sort for all the amateurs in your area, make this a separate file, then go through that file and find some of the people who do not belong to your Chapter and invite them to a meeting. If you have a good word processor you can set it to write the letters and automatically insert the addresses and perhaps make the labels also.

Again, we use dBase IV at Headquarters for our handling of members. If you wish a disk of your Chapter members, send us a formatted disk, either 3 1/2 or 5 1/4 high or low density, and I will get it copied and right back to you.

## SILENT KEY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (S.K.A.P.)

Strangely enough I have had several letters about the same subject, plus in our local area we have had to participate in inventorying several amateur estates. The letters all expressed indignation at some people taking advantage of the survivor in disposing of amateur equipment after the amateur became a SK.

We had the same problem in the local area several years ago. I had read about the QCWA people in Florida helping a survivor, but nothing had ever been put on paper. Several representatives from our clubs, and a few who were not associated with a club, banded together and worked out some ground rules. A number of years ago we mentioned this in a Journal and had a few replies. The thrust of the letters we received indicated some strong feelings about our telling all the QCWA members that something should be done. Further, two of the writers suggested we should develop a program, it should be advertised and Headquarters could very well be the central place to distribute the information.

I agree. We should push this program. This is especially a great one for our members, for with their long years of activity, they are familiar with all types of equipment and can objectively inventory and help place values on the equipment.

Our plan specifies that at least three people do the inventory, the majority of the committee meets to do the pricing, and then a completed list is returned to the survivor along with a list of radio clubs to advertise the availability of the equipment. In addition we are very adamant that no members of the committee can participate in purchasing any of the equipment. Our group does not sell the equipment. It is a resource for values.

As with anything, we needed a name. We call it SKAP, which stands for Silent Key Assistance Program. To date we have handled about five 'estates' and the people have been very pleased.

I do have some sample files on disk and would be willing to share those samples with others, however, I think perhaps we should work up a sample pamphlet and make that available as a final presentation of the idea and then announce that in the HLR as well as in the QCWA Journal.





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## Calls / Names

Just a mention. Please include calls in your correspondence with Headquarters. If we have the calls we can do almost anything. All of our data is filed by callsign and a good percentage of our card files are filed the same way. Names are always welcome, but be sure to include the call.

When you change your call, by virtue of moving or upgrading, please let us know so we can make the appropriate change in the data base and card file.

For many years Headquarters maintained three data base files. One was the active members, one was the delinquent members and the final one contained the SK records. Our work frequently demands information from each of the files.

Those three files are now merged into one file. At a glance we can determine whether a member is active, delinquent or a SK. It is a large file but our program handles it very well. This file is uploaded to my laptop when I go to an amateur radio convention and the information is available at the table. This is very useful to check on expiration dates and awards that a member may be eligible to receive and to be certain that we have been informed of the correct address.

## SILENT KEYS

We recently reported a silent key in the QCWA Journal column and several persons heard from the individual. The SK was reported by a Chapter secretary. I do not like writing to someone and making apologies for such an error, although it is nice that they are still with us !!

We have instituted several measures, in the past, to stop these errors. This one slipped by the restraints, so here is one more requirement and this should help. We will need an obituary to support all SK reports. Until we receive the obituary, we will not publish the SK report.

Just a clipping out of the newspaper, a copy of the program from the funeral service or a letter from a survivor will serve our purposes.

In the meantime try to help us by supplying substantiating material as soon as possible after the death.

## HAMVENTIONS

Our attendance at Dayton this year was quite an experience. We had Arch Doty, K8CFU; John Edel, K8LBZ; Bill Stevens, W6ZN; Harry Dannals, W2HD; Lew McCoy, W1ICP and myself at the QCWA Booth.

The Dayton Chapter did a great job in setting up the area and especially had a great sign which was readily visible to everyone in the area. As of that Friday morning the Dayton Amateur Radio Club said they had sold some 37,000 tickets.

At times on Friday we had up to four people at a time completing applications. We finally ran out of supplies Sunday morning. At that time we had received about 75 new applications, several Life applications were received and all of our QCWA caps and patches had been sold.

It was a very successful event for QCWA. Many old friends stopped by the booth and we made many new friends among those who came by our display. Both computers ( Arch Doty had one also ) were busy much of the time on Friday and Saturday. In addition to the new applications we received a large number of renewals. It was both work and fun. See you next year.

In the meantime please remember that we have "CARE" packages available for those people having a QCWA booth at some hamfest. Let us know your wishes in adequate time to send the Care package.

We generally include Directories, Journals, patches, decals, applications, material on sweat shirts/T shirts, name tag badges, QSL cards and also a display of certificates that can be issued to a member. If you wish we can also include the familar stamps (regular, 50 YR and Life) so that your members can buy them.

When you are all done you make an accounting and send the remaining materials back to us. Many Chapters have used this service and really had a great deal of success. If you haven't tried it, let us know when the next hamfest is going to take place and we will ship the Care package to you for the event.

This also serves to give presence to QCWA at these events and certainly cannot help but add to your local membership totals. Lets " Wave the Flag " for QCWA at every hamfest and event across the country.



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